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Vegetable Situation

Economics, Statistics,
and Cooperatives Service

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Approved by the
World Food and
Agricultural Outlook
and Situation Board



THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

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SUMMARY

First Quarter Fresh Vegetable Prices Decline

A generally mild winter nurtured large uninterrupted supplies of fresh market vegetables, keeping prices low. For the first quarter of 1980, the ESCS index of grower prices for fresh vegetables registered 196 (1967=100) in sharp contrast with last year when cold weather and labor disputes disrupted market supplies, pushed prices to record levels, and caused the index to soar to 272. Although supplies of fresh vegetables will be ample this spring, weather-delayed plantings of some items will cause occasional week-to-week variations in supplies, keeping second quarter prices above year-earlier levels.

The prospective acreage of 14 fresh market vegetables is 1 percent larger than a year ago. If yields equal the average for the past 3 years, however, production will be down slightly. Among the major crops, acreage will increase for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, celery, cucumbers, escarole-endive, green peppers, and spinach. There are smaller acreages of cauliflower, sweet corn, eggplant, lettuce, and tomatoes.

With large supplies of both canned and frozen vegetables, vegetable processors have contracted for 10 percent less acreage in 1980. Acreages will be 12 to 18 percent smaller for beets, green lima beans, tomatoes, and green peas. However, contracted tonnage of cabbage for kraut is expected to be 2 percent larger. Contracted acreage for canning vegetables is down 9 percent, while vegetable acreage contracted for freezing is 12 percent smaller.

Despite heavy supplies and low wholesale prices, disappearance of canned vegetables has risen only slightly from a year earlier. As a result, stocks of canned vegetables will likely be substantially larger at the end of the 1979/80 season, despite promotional allowances that have reduced average prices for canned vegetables to levels at or below a year earlier.

Disappearance of most frozen vegetables also has shown only moderate improvement from a year ago. Prices were unsettled in early April, but are expected to stabilize when prospects for this

summer's pack become firmer. With a moderate reduction in acreage contracted for freezing vegetables this summer, the total pack is estimated to be about 10 percent smaller. If total supplies of frozen vegetables drops this year, prices will rise during the third and fourth quarters of 1980.

Potato stocks on April 1 were only 3 percent smaller than the record in April 1979. Movement of fresh potatoes has been slow and prices low. Movement of raw product to processors has lagged the year-earlier pace as well. To boost prices, the USDA agreed to purchase nearly \$30 million worth of processed potatoes. Of these, \$5.2 million will be donated to charitable non-profit institutions; \$24.4 million will be used for school lunch and other domestic feeding programs. Because of the large carryover of fall potatoes and low prices, spring potato production is expected to drop 21 percent from last year to a level 6 percent below the previous record low.

Mushroom prices have plummeted during the past 6 to 8 weeks. Sales of U.S. processors declined 10 percent in the fourth quarter of 1979 and inventories increased 15 percent. Imports increased 36 percent. On March 14, the American Mushroom Institute petitioned the U.S. International Trade Commission to investigate whether mushrooms are being imported into the U.S. in quantities that could seriously injure the domestic mushroom industry. The investigation began on March 24.

Production of dry edible beans in 1979 is estimated at a record 20.7 million cwt., 9 percent larger than the large 1978 crop. However, prices have remained high because of strong export movement, particularly to Mexico, which has also contracted for supplies from the 1980 crop. As a result, farmers plan to plant 21 percent more land to dry edible beans in 1980.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK

FRESH VEGETABLES

The prospective area for harvest of 14 spring vegetables for fresh market is estimated at 263,000 acres, 1 percent more than a year ago. With yields equal to the 1977-79 average, output this spring would be 46.9 million cwt., or 1 percent less than in the spring of 1979. Among the major crops, there are larger acreages of snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, celery, cucumbers, escarole-endive, green peppers, and spinach. Acreage will decline for cauliflower, sweet corn, egg plant, lettuce, and tomatoes. The spring onion crop in Texas is 2 percent smaller than in 1979, substantially below earlier expectations. Spring melon acreage is down 16 percent from last year.

During February, moderate to heavy rains in California halted field preparation and planting in coastal counties and in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys. Harvest continued between the rains but was very slow due to muddy fields. Harvest was slow for asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower and celery. Lettuce harvest continued in the Imperial Valley but quality varied because of the rains. Rains also disrupted tomato plantings in all California areas.

Freezing weather in Florida during February and the first week of March killed or damaged young cucumber, squash, eggplant, and sweet corn, necessitating replanting in some cases. Freeze damage also occurred in the lower Rio Grande Valley in March, seriously damaging can-

taloup and watermelon plants and necessitating much replanting.

During the first quarter of 1980, weather had little apparent effect on supplies and prices. A generally mild winter nurtured large uninterrupted supplies of fresh market vegetables, keeping prices low. However, the delays in plantings and necessary replantings caused supply gaps and price increases in April and May.

Lettuce prices rose sharply recently as harvest was completed in the Imperial Valley, production moved northward to other producing areas, and market supplies were tightened during the transition. Tight supplies may also result in early May from the rain-interrupted planting operations during February in the San Joaquin, Central Coast, and South Coast areas.

Despite an ample volume of fresh market vegetables, widely fluctuating supplies in April and May will keep grower prices above year-earlier levels in the second quarter. The index of farm prices received for commercial vegetables for the fresh market for the first quarter of 1980 was 196 (1967=100) compared with 272 in 1979—when cold weather and labor disputes disrupted market supplies and pushed prices to record levels—and 206 in 1978. For the second quarter farm prices are likely to average above year-earlier levels with the second quarter 1980 index near 225, compared with 205 a year ago.

The ESCS index of retail prices for fresh vegetables in the first quarter of 1980 stood at 220.5

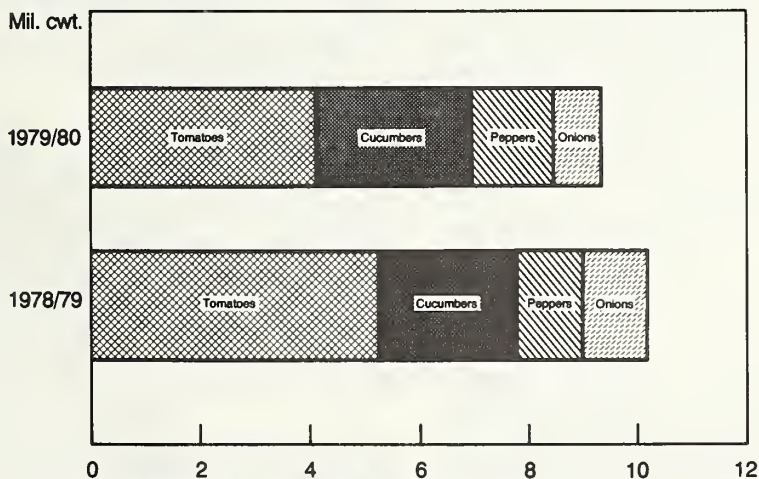
Table 1—Vegetables and melons for fresh market: Reported commercial acreage and projected production of principal crops, selected seasons, 1979 and indicated 1980

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage			Production		
	1979 major States	1980		1979 major States	1980	
		Indicated major States	Percent of 1979		Indicated ¹ major States	Percent of 1979 ⁵
	1,000 acres		Percent	1,000 cwt.		Percent
Winter	180.1	197.3	110	34.1	36.4	107
Spring: ²						
Snap Beans	20.4	26.1	128	.7	.9	129
Broccoli ³	19.0	19.9	105	1.8	1.8	100
Cabbage ³	16.8	17.2	102	4.0	3.9	98
Carrots ³	16.2	16.7	103	3.7	3.7	100
Cauliflower ³	6.8	6.7	99	.6	.6	100
Celery ³	9.2	10.3	112	4.5	4.7	104
Sweet corn.	36.4	35.1	96	3.9	3.8	97
Cucumbers.	19.1	19.6	103	2.4	2.4	100
Eggplant	1.2	1.1	92	.2	.2	100
Escarole-Endive.	2.0	2.0	100	.3	.3	100
Lettuce.	66.2	62.6	95	17.3	17.5	101
Green peppers ³	11.7	11.9	102	1.2	1.3	108
Spinach	1.6	1.8	113	.2	.2	100
Tomatoes	33.4	31.6	95	6.6	5.6	85
Total 14 vegetables.	260.0	263.0	101	47.3	46.9	99
Honeydew melons	6.4	4.2	66	.8	.5	63
Cantaloups.	26.5	22.4	85	3.7	3.1	84
Watermelons.	86.9	74.3	86	11.1	9.8	88
Total melons ⁴	119.8	110.9	84	15.5	13.4	86

¹ Based on average yield per acre. ² April, May and June. ³ Includes fresh market and processing. ⁴ May not add to total due to rounding. ⁵ Percentage figures listed are correct—Production data in this table have been rounded.

Vegetables for Fresh Market, ESCS, USDA.

Imports of Mexican Vegetables*



*Partial season—October through mid-April only—Border crossings as reported by AMS

USDA

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(1967=100). For the spring quarter, the index of retail prices paid by urban consumers is expected to range from 230 to 240.

Prospects for Leading Items

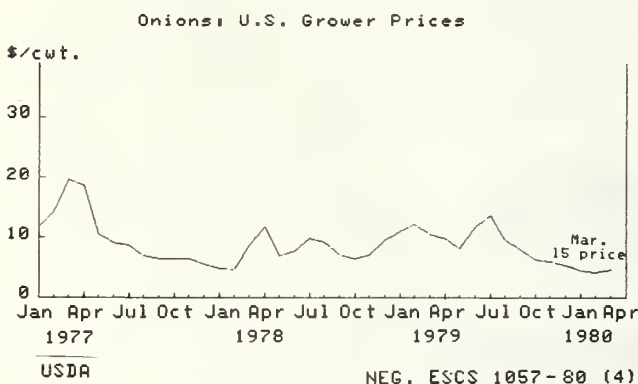
Onions

The Texas spring onion crop is currently forecast at 3.42 million cwt., down 2 percent from last year and 7 percent below the March 1 forecast.

Except for freezing temperatures in the lower Rio Grande Valley in early March, growing conditions for spring onions have been very good. Temperatures were generally mild with no excessive amounts of moisture. Occurrence of seed stem increased throughout the Laredo, Winter Garden and Rio Grande Valley areas. Limited harvest began in late March in the Rio Grande Valley and remained slow until mid April when supplies began to increase. In the San Antonio-Winter Garden Area, harvest got underway in mid-April. Freezing temperatures during March reduced yield prospects from a month earlier.

With heavy storage supplies, grower prices in January and February were less than half those of a year earlier. With smaller crops in both Texas and Arizona and the California crop about the same as last year, grower prices are expected to strengthen and rise above current levels by summer, when the major storage States begin harvest.

Only one of the four non-storage States—Texas—is showing a decrease in acreage while the other three—New Jersey, New Mexico, and Washington—are showing increases. Nevertheless, total acreage will decline 1 percent from a year earlier.



In the storage States, which account for a major portion of the summer crop, acreage will be 4 percent smaller than last year. California will have a 5 percent decline. The California crop is considered separately, as it is used primarily for dehydration.

Tomatoes

Total supplies of tomatoes have been running slightly below a year earlier. Imports have been about a fifth less but domestic unloads have been up about a tenth.

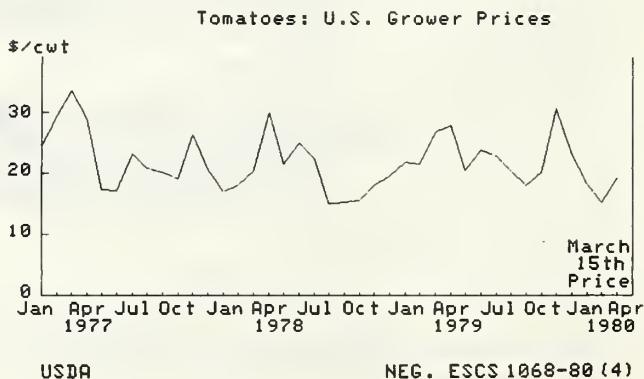
Spring tomato acreage, at 31,600 acres, is 5 percent less than last year. Based on average yields for the past 3 years, the crop would be 16 percent smaller. Florida and South Carolina account for two-thirds of the spring harvest area. The Florida spring tomato crop in Dade County and the Ft. Pierce-Pompano area is generally rated fair to good. Fruit quality, size, and yields vary from fair to very good. Nearly ideal weather during late March aided plant maturity and progress. Some acreage in the Ft. Pierce-Pompano area suffered freeze damage in early March and is expected to be abandoned. The spring crop in the Palmetto-Ruskin area is mostly in good condition.

The Florida harvest is expected to peak in May, when the Palmetto-Ruskin area reaches heavy production. The 5,200 acres for spring harvest in South Carolina is 10 percent less than last year, with peak supplies expected there in June. Alabama, Arkansas, California, and Texas also ship in late spring. Planting of California spring tomatoes was interrupted by very wet weather during February, so some acres may be harvested later than usual.

Table 2—Major sources of U.S. winter tomato supplies¹

Season Nov. 1 thru mid-April	Florida	Mexico ²	Total Florida and Mexico	Mexico as percent of total
	Thous. cwt.		Percent	
1976/77	3,369	6,422	9,791	66
1977/78				
1978/79	5,336	5,251	10,591	50
1979/80	6,063	5,195	11,258	46

¹ Fruit and Vegetable Division-AMS-USDA. ² Border crossings include shipments to Canada.



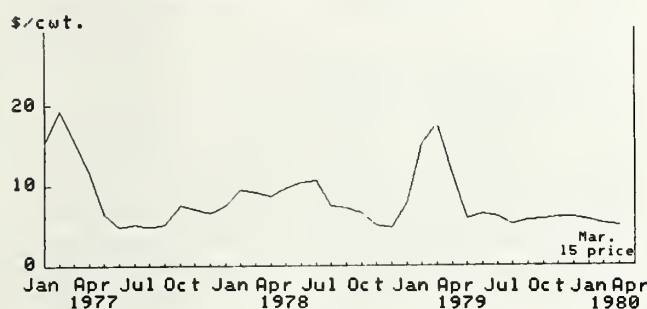
With prospective supplies of spring tomatoes expected to be substantially smaller than a year earlier, grower prices are expected to rise above current levels and exceed last year's 25 cents-a-pound level.

Cabbage

Unloads of cabbage this past winter were 5 percent larger than a year earlier, with Florida shipping less and Texas shipping sharply more. Texas supplies were down last year because of the January 1979 freeze. F.o.b. prices per 1¾ bushel carton from mid-February to mid-March ranged from \$2.20 to \$2.50, compared with \$8.00 to \$12.00 a year earlier at North Florida points. During the same period, f.o.b. prices in the lower Rio Grande Valley ranged from \$2.00 to \$2.15 per 50 pound sack, compared with \$9.00 to \$11.55 a year earlier.

The 1980 spring cabbage acreage, at 17,150 acres, is up 2 percent from a year earlier. Based on average yields, production of 3.95 million cwt. would be about the same as last year. Grower prices are not expected to improve much from their current low levels during the spring. However, some of California's spring cabbage was lost due to flooding, so supplies from there will be reduced through June.

Cabbage: U.S. Grower Prices



USDA

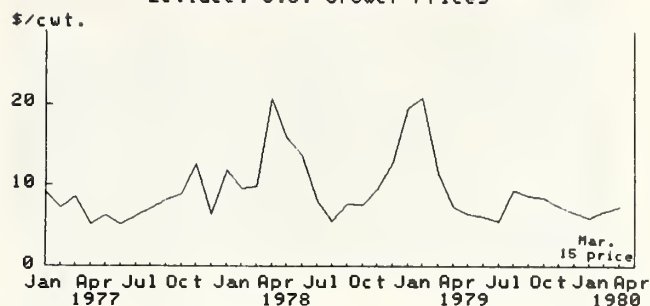
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Lettuce

Rains in California during February disrupted plantings in the Central and South Coast areas. Harvest started in Kern County and the Santa Maria area in mid-March. Cutting continues in the Palo Verde Valley. The important Salinas district is expected to have volume supplies in late May. Harvest of the Arizona spring crop began in March and is expected to continue into June. Florida harvest is continuing at an active pace and good supplies are expected through May.

Total unloads of lettuce—mostly originating in the Imperial Valley from the first of January to mid-March—were 4 percent larger than a year earlier. Winter acreage was 4 percent larger. Weekly

Lettuce: U.S. Grower Prices



USDA

NEG. ESCS 1059-80 (4)

average f.o.b. prices ranged from \$2.25 to \$3.50 per carton of 24 heads at California and Arizona shipping points from the first of January until the 19th of March.

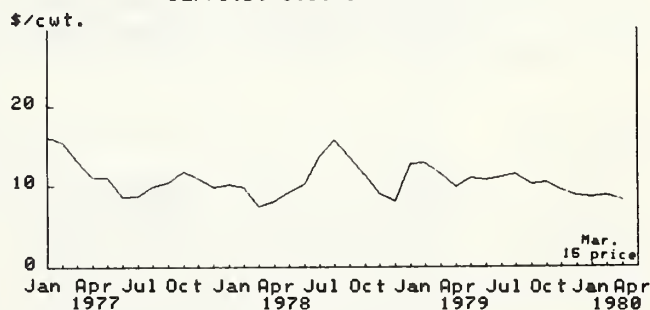
On March 19 the f.o.b price rose to \$4.00 a carton, on the 20th to \$5.00, on the 21st to \$6.00, and on the 24th to \$8.00 a crate. The price pattern in April was similar, with prices fluctuating between \$4.00 and \$10.00 a carton. Trade sources attributed this price rise to tightened supplies as production moved from the Imperial Valley to other production areas and to gaps in supplies resulting from rain delayed plantings in February. Supplies are expected to continue tight until the Salinas area begins volume production.

The 1980 spring acreage for harvest, at 62,600 acres, is 5 percent below last year. Based on average yields, prospective production of 17.5 million cwt. would be 1 percent larger than in 1979.

Carrots

Carrot unloads to fresh market outlets from major districts of California, Texas, and Florida have been running about 16 percent ahead of last year. Winter acreage was about 7 percent larger. Wet weather during February delayed planting in California and slowed harvest in Arizona. California weekly shipping point prices during the winter quarter ranged from \$3.50 to \$6.00 per

Carrots: U.S. Grower Prices



USDA

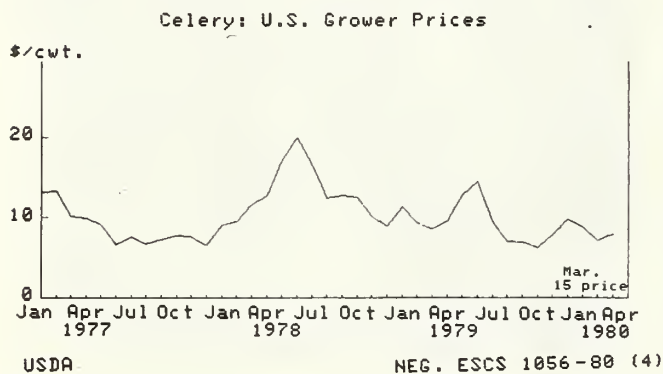
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carton of 48 1-pound film bags, compared with the \$4.40 to \$7.90 a year earlier.

The 1980 spring carrot acreage will be 16,700 acres, 3 percent larger than last spring. Based on average yields, production would be 3.72 million cwt., about the same as the 1979 crop. All expected acreage increases are in California. Grower prices are currently about two-thirds of those a year ago, but they are expected to rise to last year's levels this spring and summer.

Celery

Unloads of celery in the principal U.S. markets during the winter quarter of 1980 were about 7 percent above of a year earlier. Weekly f.o.b. prices in California ranged from \$3.25 to \$7.56, compared with \$3.70 to \$8.15 a year earlier. F.o.b. prices in Florida ranged from \$3.88 to \$7.25, compared with \$4.75 to \$7.50 a year earlier.



Prospective acreage for harvest this spring is estimated at 10,250 acres, up 11 percent from last spring. Based on average yields, production would be 4.73 million cwt., up 6 percent.

The Florida celery crop is developing well. Size and quality are good, but the market continues weak. Harvesting is active in the Everglades and Zellwood areas. In California, most celery shipments this spring will come from the South Coast. The Oxnard area will supply most of the volume, with some production coming from Orange County. Harvest of celery in California's Central Coast area will start in June.

Sweet corn

Sweet corn acreage for harvest this spring is 35,100 acres, down 4 percent from last year. Assuming average yields, production would be 3.79 million cwt., 2 percent less than the same period in 1979. Nearly 85 percent of the acreage is in Florida, where production is concentrated in the Pompano and Dade County areas. Quality, size

and yields are good. The spring crop in the Everglades is making good growth. However, some fields have poor stands because of the early March freeze. Planting is well underway in the Zellwood area, with the early crop making good growth. The California crop is progressing nicely. Most of the volume will be available from the desert areas after April 20 with a smaller amount from San Joaquin Valley and South Coast later in the spring quarter. Because of extremely wet weather, some of the early-planted fields required replanting.

Cantaloups and Honeydews

Following last year's transportation and market problems, cantaloup acreage for harvest this spring is estimated at 22,400 acres—15 percent less than a year earlier. Based on average yields production is also expected to be down 15 percent. All three producing States are reducing spring cantaloup acreage in 1980—Texas, by 2 percent; California, by 23 percent; and Arizona, by 31 percent. Some replanting was necessary in the lower Rio Grande Valley because of freeze damage and wind girdling in early March which has delayed crop development. Planting in Arizona was about 2 weeks late due to rain and muddy conditions in mid-February and is expected to continue until mid April. First harvest is expected to begin in mid-to-late May and continue into July. Planting of California's desert spring cantaloups was completed in mid-March. Harvest should begin in mid-to-late May and peak in late June.

The 1980 spring acreage of honeydew melons, in Texas is estimated at 4,200 acres—34 percent less than in 1979. Spring production based on average yields is projected at 521,000 cwt., 35 percent below 1979. Most melons were planted in February, but cold weather slowed early growth. Some replanting was required due to wind damage in early March. The crop is later than normal but is now growing rapidly.

Watermelons

Watermelon acreage for harvest this spring is estimated at 74,300 acres, 14 percent less than last spring. California, Florida, Georgia, and Texas are indicating less acreage, Arizona is indicating more, and Alabama is showing no change.

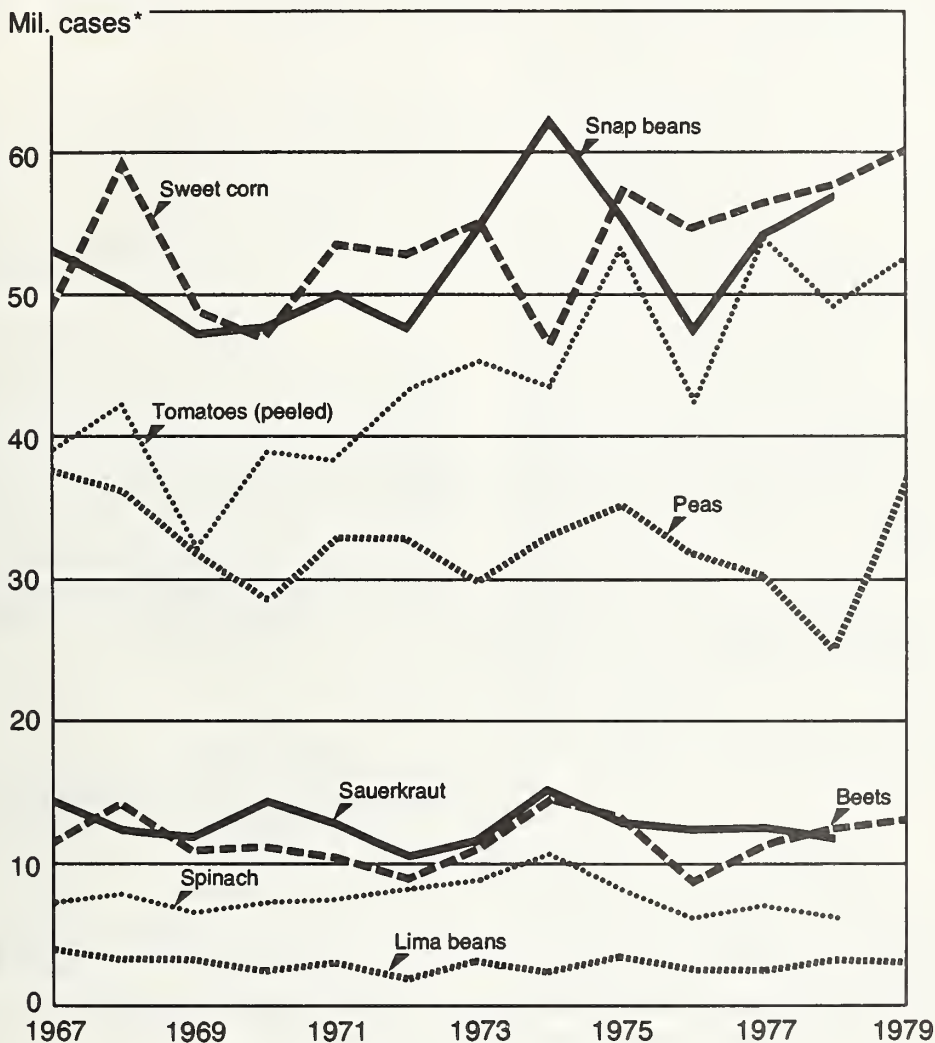
The early Florida crop will be a little later than usual due to a setback from cold weather on the 3rd of March. After the freeze, replanting was necessary in most central counties. In the north and west parts of Florida seeded acreage was slow to come up, and some stands will be light due to poor germination. California harvest is expected to peak in June. If yields are average, U.S. spring watermelon tonnage would be 9.81 million cwt., 11 percent less than a year ago.

PROCESSED VEGETABLES

Total processed vegetable supplies at the beginning of the 1979/80 marketing seasons were moderately larger than a year earlier. (This includes all frozen vegetables and 10 canned items, excluding important packs of tomato paste, catsup, and sauces). Since disappearance of canned vegetables has been up only slightly from a year earlier, canned vegetable stocks are likely to be sharply larger at the end of 1979/80 season than a year earlier.

Stocks of frozen vegetables (excluding frozen potato products) on April 1 totaled 1.3 billion pounds—10 percent larger than the year-earlier figure. Disappearance from the larger supply has been up moderately from year-earlier levels. The 1979 packs of frozen vegetables totaled a record 2.8 billion pounds, with record large packs of carrots, corn-on-the-cob, green peas, spinach, onions, and miscellaneous vegetables. The three northwestern States and California account for nearly all frozen vegetables in the U.S.

Selected Canned Vegetable Packs



*Basis 24/303's
Source: National Food Processors Association

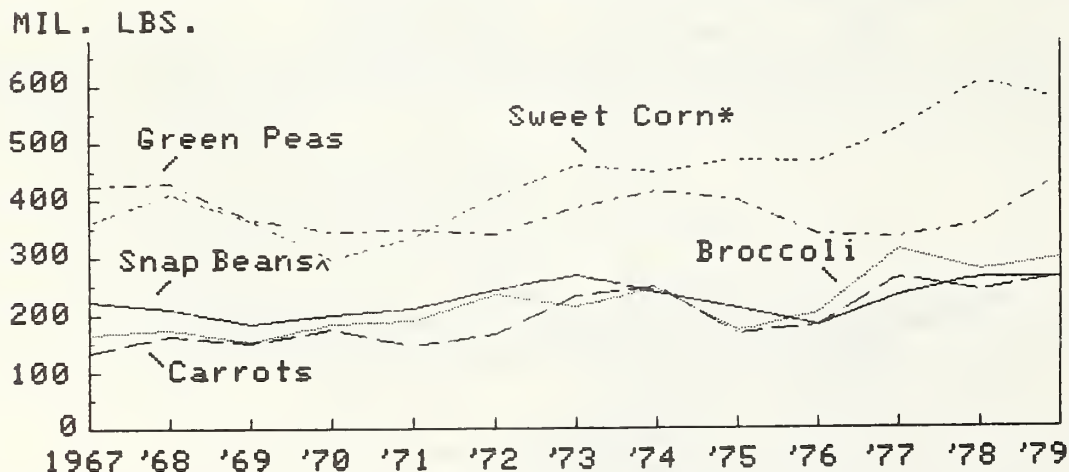
Table 3—Vegetables for commercial processing: Prospective plantings

Crop	Planted acreage				1980 as percent- age change from contract 1979
	1978 Total	1979		Prospective ¹ 1980	
		Total	Contract		
	1,000 acres				Percent
Beans, green lima:					
Freezing	43.0	40.3	40.2	31.7	79
Canning	28.6	27.6	27.2	24.1	89
Beans, snap:					
Freezing	73.7	69.8	65.6	62.8	96
Canning	230.8	235.5	214.2	194.6	91
Beets for canning	18.6	19.6	19.3	15.8	82
Corn, sweet:					
Freezing	139.5	128.6	128.0	118.4	92
Canning	328.4	322.8	322.6	300.6	93
Cucumbers for pickles (spring, summer and fall)	140.0	137.2	117.6	107.9	92
Peas, green:					
Freezing	143.6	161.7	161.7	137.0	85
Canning	245.1	254.1	254.1	230.3	91
Spinach (winter):					
Freezing	7.8	9.6	9.5	8.2	87
Canning	6.8	6.1	6.1	6.1	100
Tomatoes	304.1	321.3	314.6	267.1	85
Total 8 crops ²	1,710.0	1,744.2	1,680.7	1,504.6	90

¹ Under contract. ² May not add due to rounding.

Vegetables, ESCS, USDA.

Selected Frozen Vegetable—Annual Packs



* Cut corn and corn-on-cob. ^ Included french Italian green beans and wax beans.

Source: American frozen food institute.

USDA

NEG. ESCS 2443-80 (4)

Canned vegetable prices advanced late last summer and early fall, and remained fairly steady through November. Then, the large 1979 packs began to affect the market, and prices declined.

The ESCS price index of 10 canned vegetables stood at 184.2 (1967=100) in March, compared with 189.6 a year earlier. Prices are expected to remain below year-earlier levels throughout the summer. By fall, burdensome inventories will have been sold and a new, smaller pack of most items will cause price rises. However, for calendar year 1980 the ESCS wholesale price index for 10 canned vegetables is expected to average less than the 190.7 registered in 1979.

With ample supplies of most frozen vegetables, wholesale prices in early April were unsettled, with some commodities showing increases and others declines. Prices are expected to stabilize when prospects for this summer's packs become more firm.

Average wholesale prices for processed vegetables may decline seasonally this spring and summer, but will increase during the third and fourth quarters. Both canners and freezers believe that the 1979 and 1980 cost increases can be recovered if the total pack is moderately to substantially smaller than last year's.

1980 Acreage Reduced Substantially

The area contracted for the production of major processing vegetable crops in 1980 is estimated at 1.5 million acres, down 10 percent from a year earlier. Acreage of beets, green lima beans, tomatoes, and green peas are down 12 to 18 percent. Contracted acreage of cabbage for kraut is expected to be 2 percent larger than a year ago. Current planting intentions for the 6 crops for canning call for a 9 percent decrease, while intended acres for freezing are 12 percent smaller than last year.

Snap Beans

Stocks of canned snap beans on March 1 totaled 27.5 million cases (24/303's), 41 percent more than a year earlier. As a result of the large carryover expected in July, canners and growers plan to contract for 257,480 acres this year, 8 percent less than a year ago. Prices for canned green beans varied among types of packs and regions, but averaged about the same as in 1979. In April, standard cut Midwest green beans were quoted at \$5.70 a case (24/303's), the same as in 1979. Fancy whole Northwest Blue Lakes were priced at \$8.25 a case, compared with \$7.95 a year earlier. Institutional sizes were also priced at about the same this year as last, despite the increases in processing and marketing costs.

Frozen snap bean stocks on March 1 were substantially higher than in 1979, and sharply above the previous 2 years. Wholesale prices are unsettled. Prices for regular and French cut green beans institutional packs of 12/2-1/2 pound cartons ranged from 42 to 46 cents a pound, f.o.b. West Coast, compared with 41 cents a year ago. Shipments of regular cut green beans were down 18 percent in February, while cumulative July 1-March 1 movement was up 5 percent. Stocks remained large, however, at 93.3 million pounds.

Peas

On March 1, canners' stocks of canned green peas totaled 13.9 million cases (24/303's), more than double the year-earlier level, which was a record low. Despite the large 1979 pack of 36.5 million cases and heavy promotion by canners, shipments of canned peas during the June 1-March 1 period were up only 5 percent from the year-earlier level. The June carryover will be large this year, and canners have responded by contracting for 12 percent less acreage. Even with this smaller acreage, the 1980/81 supply of canned green peas will be close to historical usage requirements. In recent years, consumption of canned green peas has ranged from 31.3-33.5 million cases (24/303's). Wholesale prices for both consumer and institutional packs of green peas are nearly identical with those quoted a year earlier.

Stocks of frozen green peas on March 1, at 193.4 million pounds, were 31 percent larger than a year ago. The 1979 pack was 24 percent larger, but during the June 1-March 1 period movement was down 2 percent from the pace of a year earlier. Even so, prices remain at year-earlier levels of \$5.50 a case of 24/10 oz packages (with some discounting) and 35 cents per pound for institutional packs, f.o.b. West Coast. Prices have remained at these levels since 1977. Freezers plan to reduce contract acreage 15 percent in 1980. With average yields, this would result in a considerably smaller supply of frozen green peas and higher prices for 1980/81.

Sweet Corn

Canners' stocks of sweet corn totaled 29.0 million cases on March 1,—6 percent larger than a year earlier and the largest supply on that date since 1969. Prices for canned corn were low throughout the winter, with Midwest prices bottoming at \$5.10 per case of 24/303's. Total shipments of canned corn (24/303 equivalents) during the July 1-March 1 period were running 7 percent ahead of the year-earlier pace. For 1980 canners plan to cut acreage 7 percent to relieve some of the current supply pressure. With average yields and a

projected carryover of more than 11 million cases, the 1980/81 supply will be 4-5 percent smaller than this season's 69.8 million cases.

Total stocks of frozen corn on March 1 were 12 percent smaller than last year. Stocks of cut corn were down 16 percent, while stocks of cob corn were 8 percent smaller. Total frozen corn disappearance through March 1 was substantially heavier than a year earlier. With plentiful supplies of frozen corn on hand, prices were weak throughout the winter, but in March freezers warned of impending higher prices. However, in late March cases of 24/12 oz cartons of frozen corn were priced at \$5.25 (less 50 cents per case promotional allowances) and institutional packs of 12/2 ½ pound cartons were trading at 31-33 cents a pound, f.o.b. West Coast. These prices were the same as last year, indicating that freezers are absorbing the increased processing costs of the past year.

The disappearance of corn-on-the-cob during the August 1-March 1 period stood at 212 million pounds, 31 percent larger than a year earlier. Unless this rate of disappearance continues, current large stocks will pose a major problem for the freezing industry. Freezers plan to reduce their contract acreage of sweet corn for freezing about 8 percent in 1980.

Lima Beans

Stocks of frozen lima beans on March 1, at 99.7 million pounds, were 19 percent larger than a year earlier. Freezers expect to contract for 21 percent less acreage in 1980 than last year. With average yields, this would result in the smallest pack of lima beans in several years. The large carryover and smaller pack will yield about 140 million

pounds of frozen lima beans for the 1980/81 season, about 16 percent less than this year. Prices for frozen lima beans are expected to be moderately higher during the last half of calendar 1980.

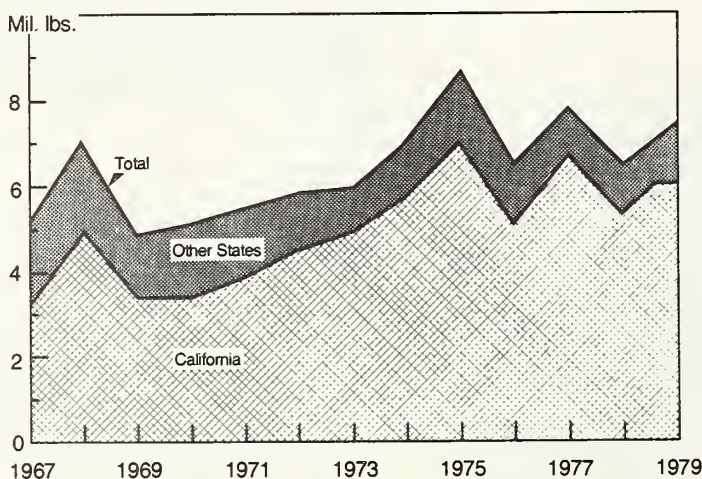
With 1.6 million cases of 24/303's on hand on March 1, lima bean processors plan to contract for 11 percent less acreage this year than last. Shipments of canned lima beans from August 1 to March 1, at about 2 million cases, were about the same as in recent years. However, during the January-March 1980 period, shipments were running at a 17 percent slower pace. Prices for retail and institutional packs in February were almost identical with those of a year earlier. Some price declines are indicated if current stocks are to be reduced appreciably.

Tomatoes

Current stocks of tomatoes and tomato products are at manageable levels following canners' aggressive marketing campaign designed to reduce their large stocks. A large carryover last July 1 plus a large pack of tomatoes last summer resulted in supplies 2 percent larger than a year earlier. However, between July 1 and January 1, 1980, movement increased 8 percent over the year earlier pace, so stocks on January 1 were 1 percent smaller. Stocks of tomato juice are also estimated to be down from year-earlier levels, but recent price discounts on tomato catsup and other tomato products indicates that supplies of these items are still heavy.

In California, growers have contracted for 215,000 acres of processing tomatoes this year—16 percent less than in 1979. For the U.S. as a whole, contracted acreage will be down 15 percent.

Processed Tomato Production



Production of tomatoes under contract is expected to total 6.4 million tons, 12 percent less than a year earlier.

California processors expect to process about 5.4 million tons from this year's crop. Contracts for about 90 percent of the crop had been written in mid-March. Approximately 78 percent of the contract tonnage was reported on a tonnage basis, with 22 percent reported on an acreage basis.

Field price offers by processors for the 1980 tonnage have been reported at \$47 to \$60 ton. Prices to growers this year are below year-earlier levels as processors were forced to restrict acreage and curtail the amount of tomatoes processed from the 1980 crop.

Cucumbers for Pickles

The pickle industry also plans to reduce its contracting activity this year. Contracted acreage will total 107,910 acres this year, down 8 percent from a year ago. Acreage in North Carolina will be down 14 percent while Michigan expects a 1 percent decline. With average yields, the pickle pack this year would be roughly 69.3 million cases (24/303 equivalents), down 8 percent from the 1979 crop year level. Total supplies are expected to be sufficient for annual consumption, currently estimated at about 75 million cases (24/303's).

Sauerkraut

Contract tonnage of cabbage for sauerkraut will be up 2 percent to 213,290 tons this year. The largest gains will be in New York, the largest producing state, and Wisconsin. Ohio growers expected a 7 percent decline in tonnage. In mid-April, New York cases of fancy 24/303's were priced at \$6.20, compared with \$6.25 a year ago. Midwest 6/10 institutional packs were priced at \$8.00 to \$8.35, compared with \$8.75 to \$9.25 a year ago. This year's larger pack, combined with a projected larger carryover, is expected to result in heavy supplies of sauerkraut this fall and some weakening of prices.

Beets

Stocks of canned beets on January 1 totaled 11.4 million cases (24/303's), 44 percent more than a year earlier. Despite the heavy supplies, prices for canned beets have remained at year-earlier levels. However, canners plan drastic cutbacks in contracted beet acreage this fall, averaging about 18 percent nationally. Acreage will be down 24 percent in Wisconsin and 16 percent in New York.

Carrots

Raw carrot tonnage used for processing in 1979 set another record as 468,380 tons went for can-

ning and freezing last year. A record-large pack of canned carrots was made, and the frozen pack was near record large.

Broccoli

The increasing popularity of frozen broccoli was apparent again last year as nearly 300 million pounds were packed, 7 percent more than in 1978 but well below the 1977 record. Carryover stocks of broccoli on March 1, at 76.7 million pounds, were 27 percent larger than the year before. In anticipation of a larger carryover this year, freezers will probably reduce production so that total supplies for 1980/81 will be in the 340-355 million-pound range. Reflecting the prospective smaller supplies, some freezers are alerting the trade of price advances effective this spring. Prices for broccoli spears, now listed at \$7.90-\$8.60 per case of 24/10 oz packages, are scheduled to rise to \$9.45. Prices for institutional packs of spears (12/2 lb.) now at 47-52 cents a pound, are scheduled to rise to 57 cents.

Spinach

Carryover stocks of frozen spinach on March 1 totaled 30.2 million pounds, about normal for this point in the season, but 58 percent larger than last year's small carryover. Freezers have contracted for 8,250 acres, 13 percent less than a year ago. A larger carryover, combined with this year's smaller production, will yield a "normal" supply of about 185 million pounds for the 1980/81 season. Wholesale prices have remained fairly steady throughout the 1979/80 season, but in March freezers advanced prices to \$5.25 per case (24/10 oz.) of leaf spinach. Prices for institutional packs of leaf spinach (12/3 lb.) were raised to 28-28.5 cents per pound.

Canned spinach stocks on March 1 totaled 3.1 million cases, but 1979/80 canning activity (August 1-March 1) was up 129 percent from a year earlier. Shipments for the year were down 10 percent. California is the largest packer of canned spinach, followed by Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Asparagus

Stocks of frozen asparagus on March 1 totaled 8.7 million pounds, 220 percent above last year's record low of 2.7 million. Canners' stocks on January 1 totaled 1.5 million cases (24/303's), 12 percent more than a year earlier. Because of short supplies and high prices, movement of canned asparagus during the March 1, 1979-January 1, 1980 period trailed the year earlier pace by 16 percent.

Total acreage available for fresh market and for processing harvest in 1980 is 70,900 acres in the 5

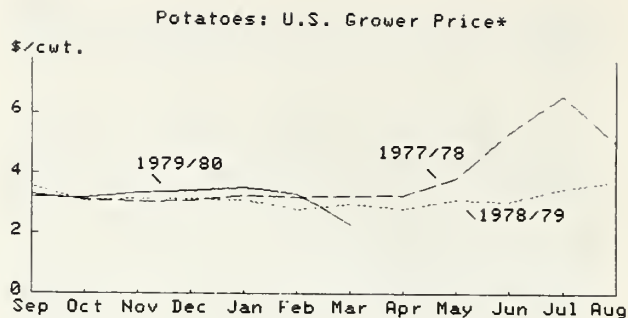
major producing States. This is only 800 acres more than a year earlier. All of the increase occurred in California where acreage increased to 27,900 acres. Illinois, Michigan, and New Jersey showed declines, while Washington, the second largest producer, maintained the year-earlier level at 22,000 acres.

POTATOES

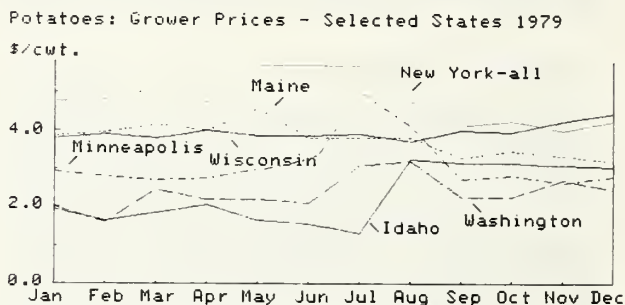
Prospects last fall for a substantially smaller 1979 potato crop and higher prices were short lived when the crop was harvested and the first tallies showed 302 million cwt., only 7 percent below the record-large 1978 crop. In the Central States the crop was down 10 percent and in the Western States production was 8 percent less than the 1978 record. In the Eastern States, however, production was up 5 percent and in Maine, the leading eastern producer, the crop was 11 percent larger than the year earlier. As a result, U.S. average potato prices have been low throughout the winter and early spring, and in March were only 12 percent higher than a year earlier. However, prices have also varied by regions. In North Dakota, March grower prices averaged 23 percent higher and in Idaho they were 43 percent higher. In Maine, March grower prices were 25 percent below the 1978 level.

Assistance for Potato Growers

In late February, the Main Potato Commission, the Aroostock County Commissioners, and others petitioned the USDA to initiate a diversion program "because Maine potato prices are depressed due to an existing surplus and competition from a significant volume of fresh supplies



* Crop year.

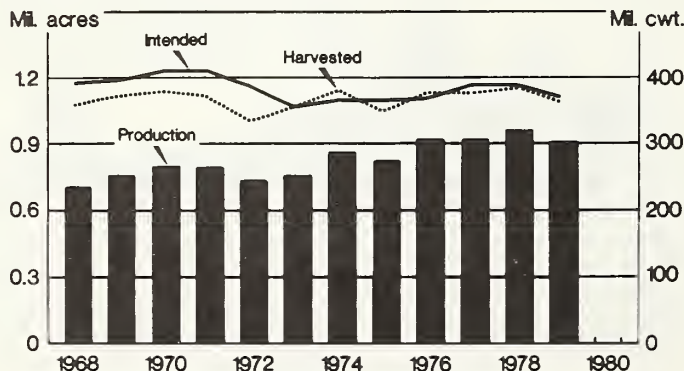


Source: Jan. 1980 Ag. Price

imported from Canada, particularly the Maritime Provinces." A diversion program was not undertaken, however, for a number of reasons among which were the late date of the petition, the local nature of the surplus situation, and the general antipathy toward diversion programs by other segments of the potato industry.

However, on April 11, the USDA offered to buy an estimated \$30 million worth of potato products

Intended Acres, Harvested Acres and Production Fall Potatoes - United States



Source: Crop Production for Harvested and Production for Intentions Prospective Planting.

for donation to charitable institutions and domestic food programs. Purchases were expected to comprise about 18 million pounds of dehydrated potatoes, 49 million pounds of frozen french fries, and 45 million pounds of frozen potato rounds.

Charitable, non-profit institutions that do not routinely receive USDA-donated foods are scheduled to receive about \$5.2 million worth of potato products—representing more than 20 million pounds of raw potatoes. The remaining \$24.4 million—accounting for about 91 million pounds of raw potatoes—represents the usual purchases for school lunch and other domestic food programs.

The purchase program was initiated under provisions of Section 32 of Public Law 74-320. It is still too early to assess the impact of these purchases on supplies, and prices. Bids for sales of processed potatoes to the USDA were due on or before April 30. Shipments are scheduled over 10 two-week shipping periods between July 1 and November 30.

Anti-Dumping Petition

On April 8, the Maine Potato Council filed a petition with the Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission (ITC) alleging that imports of fresh round white potatoes from Canada are being sold in the U.S. at less than fair value and are causing material injury to the U.S. industry. Under the U.S. Anti-Dumping Statute, Commerce had until April 28 (20 days) "to evaluate the petition and to determine whether it alleges the elements necessary for imposition of an anti-dumping duty and contains information reasonably available to the petitioner supporting the allegations." The petition was rejected by the Department of Commerce.

April Stocks Down But Still Large

With the large eastern crop and slow movement of potatoes this winter it was not surprising that April 1 stocks of 96.8 million cwt. were only 3 percent smaller than the record holdings on April 1, 1979. As expected, processor use of raw product in the 7 leading States was 5 percent less than during the comparable period last year when processors built inventories on low priced raw stock. Disappearance of the 1979 crop through April 1 totaled 200 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), 8 percent less than a year earlier. The total disappearance includes 25.9 million cwt. of potatoes that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on farms where grown, discarded without grading, and lost due to shrinkage.

The April stocks pattern shows notable regional differences. In the 7 Eastern States, stocks totaled 14.6 million cwt.—29 percent larger than a year

ago and 16 percent larger than in 1978. Maine's stocks, at 12.5 million cwt., were 42 percent larger than last year. In the Central States, stocks were 13 percent smaller than a year ago, and in the 8 Western States stocks were down 6 percent.

With processing use of raw potatoes down from a year ago, open market grower prices for processing stock have been depressed. Most processors contract in advance for the bulk of their needs. This year, the average base price in Idaho ranged from \$3.20 to \$3.25 per cwt., cellar-run basis, with incentives for quality. In April, the open market quotations ranged from \$2.00 to \$2.85, f.o.b. grower's storage, with few sales reported. With the current slow movement of most processed potato products, many processors have curtailed their purchases of raw product for the season.

Larger Stocks of Frozen Potatoes

Large supplies from 1978's record-large crop and slower movement in recent months have resulted in larger stocks of frozen potato products. On March 1, 869 million pounds of frozen potatoes were in cold storage throughout the country, or 10 percent more than a year earlier. Holding of frozen potatoes were largest in the West, where the bulk of the processing takes place. The Pacific and Mountain States accounted for more than two-thirds of the total frozen potato stocks. Maine's stocks of frozen potatoes accounted for approximately 6 percent of the U.S. total.

The processed potato industry is currently in a critical decision-making period. March 15-June 15 is usually the peak shipping period for fresh potatoes. It is also a period when frozen processors build up inventories. However, frozen potato movement appears to be suffering from the flattening of "eating out" sales. Most processors are now operating at a level to meet demand but not build inventories. The food service market has been dull, with Fancy long frozen french fries in Wash-

Table 4—Pack of frozen potato products*

Year	Million pounds	Year	Million pounds
1960	551	1969	2,048
1961	579	1970	2,048
1962	762	1971	2,565
1963	862	1972	2,594
1964	1,118	1973	2,691
1965	1,219	1974	2,985
1966	1,460	1975	3,001
1967	1,491	1976	3,335
1968	1,736	1977	3,623
		1978	3,849
		1979	4,090

*American Frozen Food Institute.

ington State listing between 26 and 28 cents a pound with concessions of up to 4 cents a pound, depending on the seller. Idaho's frozen french fries were selling for 29 cents a pound and Maine's for 27 cents, both with price concessions, f.o.b. plant.

The dehydrated potato market also shows a mixed picture. The Potato Growers of Idaho report that dehydrators in Idaho are manufacturing dehydrated potatoes and moving product at a brisk pace. However, on April 18 one of the largest potato processors announced the permanent closing of a large dehydration plant in Idaho. In the food service market, granules were selling for \$13.50-\$14.00 a case (6/5-1/2 pound packages) with sharp price concessions. Prices for retail packs of instant flakes moved up in January to \$6.14 a case (24/7-1/2 oz poly packs), but there were also periodic concessions on these prices, f.o.b. shipping point.

Table 5—West European potato production, 1977, 1978, and 1979

Country	1977	1978	1979
<i>Million cwt.</i>			
EC			
West Germany	250.6	231.7	192.8
Netherlands	126.8	137.4	135.6
United Kingdom	146.0	161.6	145.3
France	172.0	164.4	156.0
Italy	67.9	61.8	59.5
Ireland	33.6	23.9	23.4
Belgium-Luxembourg . .	37.1	34.8	32.1
Denmark	21.0	22.2	19.8
Total	855.0	837.8	764.5
Other			
Spain	129.6	117.2	115.7
Austria	29.8	30.9	30.2
Sweden	28.2	29.5	26.7
Finland	16.2	16.4	17.0
Greece	20.3	19.9	21.0
Switzerland	17.6	21.8	21.4
Portugal	26.5	23.8	22.0
Norway	14.4	13.8	11.7
Total	282.6	273.3	265.7
Grand total	1,137.6	1,111.1	1,030.2

Foreign Agricultural Service.

Spring Potato Crop Record Low

The first forecast of the 1980 spring potato crop places production at a record low 16.8 million cwt., 21 percent below last season and 6 percent less than the 1978 output, which was the previous record low. This year growers reduced acreage to 75,700 acres, of which 72,700 are expected to be harvested. This is 13 percent below last year's harvested acreage and a record low. Prospective yields, at an estimated 231 cwt. per acre, will be 9 percent lower than last year.

All production areas are sharing in the declines. The California crop is down 22 percent from last

U.S. spring potato supplies

	1978	1979	1980
<i>Million cwt.</i>			
April 1 stocks	89.2	99.8	96.8
Spring production . . .	18.0	21.3	16.8
Total	107.2	121.1	113.6

season. In the Florida Hastings area the crop is down 26 percent. Plants made a good recovery from the early March freeze, although abandonment will be higher than usual and yields will be well below last year's record high. In North Carolina the crop is running 2 to 4 weeks later than last year because of prolonged spring rains. In Texas, harvest should begin in the Winter Garden area in early May and in the Knox-Haskell area in June.

Lower Spring Prices in 1980

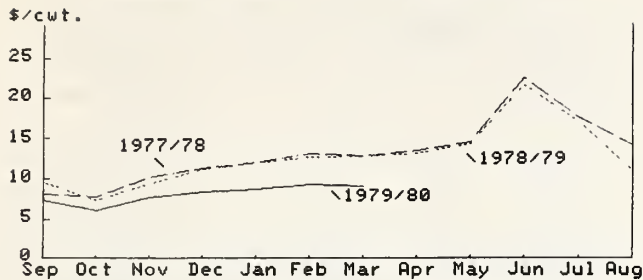
Harvest delays in some spring production areas will probably cause uneven movement to market during the spring quarter. Although the spring crop will be short, the usual spring price rise may not be as pronounced as would otherwise be expected because of the heavy remaining fall crop supplies from Maine and Canada. This year, total spring quarter potato supplies will be smaller than last year's record, but will still be larger than in the previous 2 years. In addition late spring processing activity in the Pacific Northwest is not expected to remove the usual large volumes from the market, unless prices remain low enough to make building of inventories profitable even at current interest rates.

SWEETPOTATOES

Movement of the largest sweetpotato crop since 1965 is winding down seasonally, and will be largely completed in about 6 weeks. Fresh market use of this larger crop through early April was up about a tenth from a year earlier when another large crop was being marketed. Grower prices have been about a fourth lower than last year, with \$9.08 per cwt. recorded for March.

Canners' stocks are near normal levels, with 4.8 million cases reported in canners' hands on January 1. Wholesale prices currently are about 50 cents to \$3.25 lower than a year earlier. Sirup-packed 24/303's were priced at \$11.00 in April 1980, compared with \$11.50 a year earlier; the 24/2-1/2's were \$16.00 compared with \$16.50. Cartons of 6/10's in April 1980 were \$11.25, down from \$14.75 last year. A trade source reports that sales activity

Sweetpotatoes: U.S. Grower Prices*



* Crop year.

has been seasonally quiet and largely at posted list prices.

The July-December 1979 pack of sweetpotatoes came to 9.1 million cases of 24/303's, 3.5 percent smaller than in 1978. With canned supplies a little less than last year, prices will probably remain at or near current levels into summer. Prices will rise this fall if crops are smaller, as expected, in North Carolina and Louisiana, the major canning States.

The April Prospective Plantings report noted that growers are expected to plant 120,800 acres of sweetpotatoes in 1980, 6 percent less than in 1979 and 3 percent less than in 1978. North Carolina, the leading producer, is showing a 10 percent reduction in planting intentions and Louisiana, the no. 2 producer, is showing a cut of 1,000 acres, or 3 percent. Texas growers plan to trim plantings by 6 percent and California growers by 2 percent. Planted acreage in all other sweetpotato States is expected to remain the same or decline except in Georgia and New Jersey where increases are expected.

MUSHROOMS

At Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, grower prices for mushrooms moving to fresh market and for processing have declined precipitously in the past 2 months. During the first week of April, prices for U.S. #1 clean cut mushrooms in bulk for repacking stood at 60 cents a pound, down from 66 to 68 cents in February. At the same time, prices for mushrooms for processing dropped to 46 cents, down from the February 11 price of 62 cents. These drops in prices are attributed to a sudden weakening of the retail market for fresh mushrooms as consumers restrict both "eating out" and gourmet cooking at home, and to an increase in low-priced processed imports.

During the fourth quarter of 1979, domestic production of canned mushrooms increased to 26.6

Canned Mushroom Imports
(July to March 1 following year)

Country	1978/79	1979/80
<i>Million pounds</i>		
Taiwan	25.7	35.0
South Korea	15.2	17.1
Others	9.5	10.8
Total imports	50.4	62.9

million pounds, up 3 percent from the fourth quarter of 1978. At the same time, however, imports increased to 21.4 million pounds, an increase of 36 percent over the year-earlier period. Meanwhile, sales by domestic processors declined to 24.1 million pounds, down 10 percent from the 1978 level.

Apparent consumption of canned mushrooms totaled 47.1 million pounds—a 7-percent increase over a year earlier—as imports more than offset the decline in domestic sales. U.S. processors' inventories increased 15 percent during the October 1-December 31, 1979, period, compared with a 9 percent decline the year before.

Imports from all major suppliers—Taiwan, the Republic of Korea, and Hong Kong—were up substantially. Imports from Taiwan, the principal U.S. supplier, increased 25 percent to 12.7 million pounds in the fourth quarter of 1979, while imports from Korea rose to 3.8 million pounds (up 66 percent), and those from Hong Kong rose to 3.4 million pounds (up 48 percent). Taiwan supplied 59 percent of the U.S. imported mushrooms in 1979—down from 68 percent in 1978—while Korea's share increased to 18 and Hong Kong's share increased to 16 percent.

With increased labor, energy, and other processing costs, domestic canners are finding it increasingly difficult to compete with imports from Taiwan and Korea. The American Mushroom Institute requested an investigation under Section 201 of the Trade Act, asking the United States' International Trade Commission to determine the degree of harm caused to the industry by imports.

DRY BEANS

Dry bean growers expect to plant a total of 1.76 million acres this spring, 21 percent more than last year and 15 percent above 1978. Increases in acreage are expected in all major producing States, except New York. The increases are attributed to good prices resulting in large part from sales to Mexico from the 1979 crop and contracts for exports to Mexico from the 1980 crop. Mexico has contracted for about 250,000 metric tons (5.5

Table 6—Beans, dry edible: Prospective plantings for 1980 season, with comparisons¹

Group of States	Acreage planted			1980 as percentage of 1979
	1978	1979	Indicated 1980 ²	
	1,000 acres			Percent
New York	45.0	42.0	40.0	95
Michigan	550.0	495.0	570.0	115
Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington	346.4	352.0	423.0	120
Minnesota and North Dakota	162.0	148.0	285.0	192
Kansas, Colorado, and Utah	211.5	211.0	229.0	108
California	216.0	205.0	210.0	102
Other States ³	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
United States	1,530.9	1,453.0	1,757.0	120.9

¹ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. ² Indications as of April 1. ³ Illinois and Indiana discontinued in 1978.

Prospective Plantings, ESCS, USDA.

million cwt.) of pintos and other colored varieties from the 1980 crop for delivery September through December.

Overall, if the 5-year average yields were applied to planned acreage, the U.S. 1980 production would turn out to be 22.3 million cwt., up 9 percent from last year's 20.7 million. But if 1980 yields are near last year's record, production could be as high as 25.6 million cwt.,—25 percent higher than in 1979.

It does not necessarily follow that 1980 yields will be as indicated or that production will be increased as much as intended acreage. But if growers follow through on their intentions or exceed them and production turns out to be large, strong export markets will be needed to sustain grower prices.

Demand for beans has been fairly good for most important classes. Domestic use has been fair to good, while export demand so far this season has been substantially better for pintos and red kidneys because of exports to Mexico. Export demand has also been better than a year earlier for Navy beans and lima beans but weaker for great north-erns and black beans. Exports from September 1, 1979 through the end of February 1980 totaled 3.9 million cwt., compared with 3.1 million a year ear-lier.

Dealer prices for navy beans have declined from their high of \$25 a ton at the end of January to \$21.50 in early April. This compares with \$17.62 a year earlier, even though the current crop was 10 percent larger. Great north-erns are competitively priced at \$27.50 per cwt., compared with \$25.50 a year earlier, despite a 7 percent larger supply this year.

Strong Mexican demand has kept prices for pinto beans above last year's levels. Despite a 7-percent larger supply, dealer prices for pintos were \$33.00 per ton in early April, compared with \$20.25 a year earlier.

With larger supplies available this season, black-eye peas were priced at \$23.75 per cwt., down from \$27.25 a year ago.

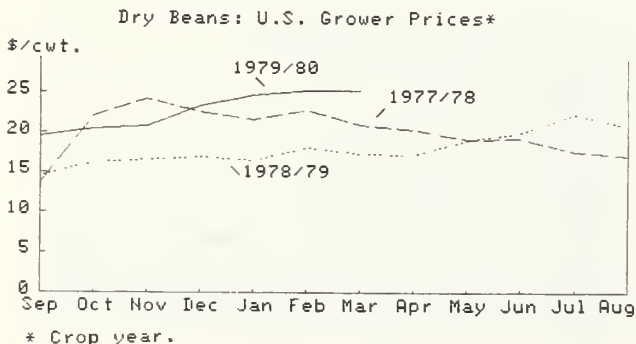
Baby limas, at \$19.62 per cwt. in early April, were about \$2.00 per cwt. less than a year earlier, while large limas, at \$43.75 per cwt., were substantially above the year earlier level.

DRY PEAS AND LENTILS

Prices to growers of dry edible peas have been edging upward since January. Lentil prices have also trended upward reaching \$43.25 a cwt., in early April compared with \$30.80 in January. Production of dry edible peas, at 2.0 million cwt., in 1979, was 43 percent less than a year earlier, while production of lentils, at 1.2 million cwt., was a record high.

Despite a relatively small crop of edible peas, the Northwest Pea Growers and Dealers Associ-ation estimates that domestic movement through February has been down only 3.5 percent from a year earlier when the crop was about 75 percent larger. The domestic movement of lentils was 1 percent less than a year earlier.

With a much smaller total supply in 1979/80



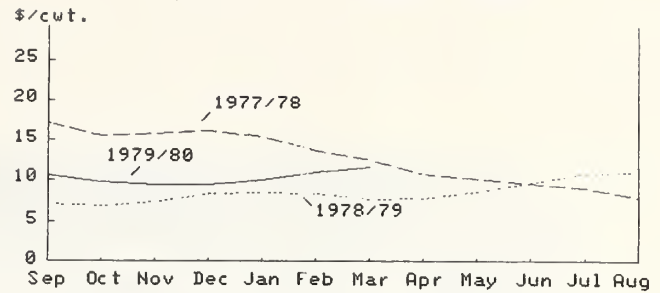
Peas, dry field: prospective plantings for 1980 season^{1 2}

State	Acreage planted		
	1979	1980 ³	1980 as percentage of 1979
	<i>1,000 acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Idaho	53.0	50.0	94
Washington . . .	86.0	80.0	93
U.S.	139.0	130.0	93.5

¹ In principal commercial producing States. ² Excludes both Wrinkled Seed Peas and Austrian Winter Peas. ³ Indications as of April 1.

and higher prices, dry pea export volume (excluding seed) of 627,209 cwt. was 35 percent less than a year earlier (September-February). Lentil trade, at 578,000 cwt., was nearly 20 percent smaller. But is expected to exceed last year's level by the end of the marketing year. Columbia, Venezuela, Brazil, Greece, and the Netherlands, have purchased larger quantities of lentils this year. Egypt purchased, for the first time, 5,700 metric tons under Agency for International Development (AID)

Dry Peas: U.S. Grower Prices*



* Crop year.

USDA

NEG. ESCS 3076-80 (4)

commodity import programs. With a smaller pea crop in 1979 than a year earlier, prices have been well above last year's levels. The Crop Reporting Board's grower price for peas in March averaged \$11.60 per cwt., up from \$7.69 in 1978. F.o.b. warehouse pea prices are ranging from \$9.50-to-\$11.75 cwt.,—up from \$7 to \$9 in 1978. Lentil prices, are running about \$15.00 more than a year earlier.

Table 7—Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (wholesale lots) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1 when available) indicated periods, 1979 and 1980

Market and commodity	State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1979		1980			
			Mar. 13	Apr. 10	Jan. 15	Feb. 19	Mar. 18	Apr. 15
Dollars								
New York								
Beans, snap, green . .	Florida	Bu. hamper and crt.	13.50	8.50	15.00	13.50	11.50	10.50
Beets, bunched	Texas	1-2/5 bu. crt. 2 doz.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Broccoli, bunched . .	California	14's bu., ctn.	8.75	9.00	8.50	12.00	11.00	11.50
Cabbage, Domestic								
Round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	13.50	14.00	6.25	4.75	4.75	6.25
Carrots:								
Topped, washed . .	California	48-1 lb. film bag, ctn.	8.50	8.75	12.50	7.75	6.25	6.75
Topped, washed . .	Texas	48-1 lb. film bag, mesh master	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cauliflower	California	Ctn. film wrpd., 12's	13.00	12.00	9.00	13.00	15.00	13.50
Celery:								
Pascal	California	Crt. 2-3 doz.	10.00	7.50	13.50	8.50	8.50	12.00
Pascal	Florida	Crt. 2-3 doz.	---	6.50	---	---	---	8.00
Corn, sweet (yellow) .	Florida	4-1/2-5 doz. crt.	8.00	---	9.00	9.50	8.75	8.25
Cucumbers.	Florida	Bu. bskt.	---	6.50	---	---	---	22.00
Lettuce, Iceberg. . . .	California	2 doz. ctn.	8.25	7.50	8.25	8.00	6.75	10.50
Onions:								
Yellow, Globe, medium.	New York	50-lb. sack	3.75	3.25	3.15	3.15	4.00	---
Yellow, Granex, large.	Texas	50-lb. sack	---	---	---	---	---	---
Peppers, green.	Florida	Bu. crt., large	12.50	18.00	13.50	9.50	9.00	15.00
Spinach, Savoy	Texas	Bu. bskt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Tomatoes, large. . . .	Florida	30-lb. ctn.	13.50	18.50	13.50	11.00	11.50	14.00
Chicago:								
Beans, snap, green . .	Florida	Bu. hamper and crt.	14.25	11.00	16.25	14.50	11.50	13.00
Beets, bunched	Texas	Crt., 24's	---	---	---	---	---	---
Broccoli	California	14's bu., crt.	7.25	9.00	8.00	10.50	9.50	---
Cabbage, Domestic								
Round type	Texas	1-3/4 bu. crt.	13.75	11.87	5.00	4.25	4.35	5.25
Carrots:								
Topped, washed . .	Texas	48-1 lb. film bag, mesh master	---	---	---	---	---	7.00
Cauliflower	California	Ctn. film wrpd. 12's	10.25	13.00	7.75	13.00	---	10.50
Celery:								
Pascal	California	Crt. 2-3 doz.	10.00	8.00	10.50	8.50	9.50	12.50
Pascal	Florida	Crt. 2-4 doz.	---	---	10.00	7.75	---	10.00
Corn, sweet (yellow) .	Florida	4-1/2-5 doz. crt.	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.75	9.25	8.50
Lettuce, Iceberg type	Arizona	2 doz. head ctn.	---	---	7.25	6.75	6.75	---
Onions:								
Yellow, Granex, med.	Texas	50 lb. sack	---	---	---	---	---	6.75
Yellow, Globe, med.	Midwestern	50 lb. sack	---	---	3.25	3.00	2.85	---
Peppers, green.	Florida	Bu. ctn. and crt.	---	19.50	12.50	10.25	8.50	15.25
Tomatoes, large. . . .	Florida	30 lb. ctn.	11.50	18.75	13.87	9.25	12.00	11.25

Weekly summary of terminal market prices, Market News Report, AMS, USDA.

Table 8—Vegetables, fresh: Average f.o.b. shipping point prices, per hundredweight, United States, indicated periods, 1979 and 1980

Commodity	1979		1980		
	February	March	January	February	March 1-15
	<i>Dollars</i>				
Asparagus	123.00	60.30	---	61.10	65.30
Beans, snap	33.10	25.50	32.90	31.50	29.70
Cabbage	15.00	17.60	5.65	5.14	5.00
Carrots	12.90	11.50	8.56	8.81	8.18
Celery	11.50	8.52	8.84	7.06	7.94
Corn, sweet	15.30	13.10	12.50	14.10	14.60
Cucumbers	---	24.60	15.40	---	---
Lettuce	20.90	11.50	5.92	6.79	7.35
Onions	12.20	19.57	4.50	4.20	4.73
Peppers, green	27.70	29.60	26.90	22.00	25.20
Tomatoes	21.50	26.80	18.30	15.30	19.30

Agricultural Prices, ESCS, USDA.

Table 9—Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Index numbers (unadjusted) of prices received by farmers, United States by months, 1963 to date¹

Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	<i>(1967=100)</i>												
1963	102	95	82	83	78	88	85	65	62	70	91	94	83
1964	100	103	98	89	83	90	80	76	76	78	101	87	88
1965	78	83	97	107	127	103	84	77	78	87	89	87	91
1966	110	115	101	108	94	99	115	102	91	92	101	95	102
1967	100	94	96	110	104	128	109	84	80	88	101	104	100
1968	119	117	125	129	105	98	92	86	92	91	113	118	107
1969	104	109	113	110	118	97	97	94	90	111	151	130	110
1970	130	123	123	109	121	110	101	96	111	95	102	95	110
1971	111	116	149	135	126	127	119	101	99	121	172	138	126
1972	155	131	115	134	122	123	116	125	129	112	147	139	129
1973	155	154	170	200	190	190	179	131	125	122	127	129	156
1974	136	162	131	151	170	171	151	140	140	163	167	146	152
1975	169	169	166	177	169	204	178	157	159	159	174	189	173
1976	195	178	180	186	132	155	169	160	177	190	186	171	173
1977	237	253	263	219	182	150	169	160	166	180	212	175	197
1978	207	201	209	296	245	251	220	172	179	172	180	213	212
1979	265	299	253	210	204	203	189	192	181	189	212	199	216
1980 ²	190	184	197										

¹ All prices reported on f.o.b. basis. ² Preliminary.

Table 10—Fresh Vegetables: Retail price, marketing margin, and grower and packer return per unit, sold in New York City, indicated months, 1979 and 1980

Commodity, month, and retail unit	Retail price ¹	Marketing margin		Grower and packer return (Fob shipping point price) ^{2 3}	
		Absolute	Percentage of retail price	Absolute	Percentage of retail price
	<i>Cents</i>	<i>Cents</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cents</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Carrots (Pound)					
Jan. 1980	34.0	22.7	67	11.3	33
Dec. 1979	32.5	21.8	67	10.7	33
Jan. 1979	34.0	22.3	66	11.7	34
Celery (Pound)					
Jan. 1980	34.9	21.4	61	13.5	39
Dec. 1979	32.5	25.4	78	7.1	22
Jan. 1979	30.2	18.2	60	12.0	40
Cucumbers (Pound)					
Jan. 1980	51.5	27.0	52	24.5	48
Dec. 1979	56.4	26.6	47	29.8	53
Jan. 1979	40.9	24.6	60	16.3	40
Lettuce (Head)					
Jan. 1980	59.0	48.9	83	10.1	17
Dec. 1979	69.0	54.2	78	14.8	21
Jan. 1979	79.0	52.1	66	26.9	34
Onions, dry yellow (Pound)					
Jan. 1980	29.0	24.4	84	4.6	16
Dec. 1979	27.0	22.5	83	4.5	17
Jan. 1979	29.0	23.4	81	5.6	19
Potatoes, round white (Pound)					
Jan. 1980	15.8	11.3	72	4.5	28
Dec. 1979	16.8	12.3	73	4.5	27
Jan. 1979	15.8	11.2	71	4.6	29
Potatoes, Russet (Pound)					
Jan. 1980	23.8	17.8	75	6.0	25
Dec. 1979	23.8	17.3	73	6.5	27
Jan. 1979	22.8	17.5	77	5.3	23
Spinach (10-oz. Pkg.)					
Jan. 1980	92.0	75.1	82	16.9	18
Dec. 1979	94.0	73.7	78	20.3	22
Jan. 1979	89.0	65.3	73	23.7	27
Sweet Potatoes, (Pound)					
Jan. 1980	32.0	17.6	55	14.4	45
Dec. 1979	34.0	19.0	56	15.5	44
Jan. 1979	29.5	15.1	51	14.4	49

¹ Retail price States of New York Department of Agriculture and Markets. ² For quantity of product equivalent to retail unit sold to consumers: Because of waste and spoilage during marketing, equivalent quantity exceeds retail unit. ³ Production areas: Carrots-California, Celery-California, Cucumbers-Florida, Lettuce-California, Onions-New York, Potatoes, Round White-New York, Potatoes, Russet-Idaho, Spinach-Texas, Sweet Potatoes, North Carolina.

Table 11—Canned vegetables: Commercial packs 1978 and 1979 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks 1979 and 1980 by commodities, United States

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
	1978	1979	Canners			Wholesale distributors ¹		
			Date	1979	1980	Date	1979	1980
	1,000 cases 24/303's							
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	57,121	66,281	Mar. 1	19,438	27,456	Jan. 1	4,392	4,281
Beets	12,834	12,973	Jan. 1	7,874	11,365	Jan. 1	1,194	1,042
Corn, sweet	57,907	60,022	Mar. 1	27,247	34,868	Jan. 1	4,486	4,105
Peas, green	25,269	36,492	Mar. 1	6,629	13,858	Jan. 1	3,035	2,894
Sauerkraut	11,740	12,980	Mar. 1	6,024	N.A.	Jan. 1	722	687
Total	164,871	188,658		67,212	87,547		13,829	13,009
Tomato items								
Tomatoes	49,241	52,724	Jan. 1	38,619	38,171	Jan. 1	4,438	2,977
Tomato juice	33,920	31,517	Jan. 1	21,087	19,870	Jan. 1	2,174	1,965
Total	83,161	84,241		59,706	58,041		6,612	4,942
Other commodities								
Asparagus	3,382	2,819	Mar. 1	919	1,024	Jan. 1	447	273
Beans, lima	3,356	3,061	Mar. 1	1,645	1,585	Jan. 1	436	382
Carrots	6,609	6,250	Jan. 1	4,037	4,802	Jan. 1	746	671
Okra ³	N.A.	N.A.			N.A.			N.A.
Pickles ¹	76,776	75,376						
Pimientos	376	N.A.			N.A.			N.A.
Pumpkin and squash	3,353	3,997	Jan. 1	1,140	950	Jan. 1	474	701
Potatoes	16,483	17,342						
Sweetpotatoes. . . .	7,194	9,436	Jan. 1	4,266	4,810			
Spinach	6,214	8,121	Mar. 1	1,362	3,120	Jan. 1	562	N.A.
Other greens.	N.A.	N.A.						
Field peas	N.A.	N.A.						
Total comparable other items . . .	126,688	126,402		13,369	16,291		2,665	2,027
Grand total com- parable items . . .	374,720	399,301		140,287	161,879		23,106	19,978

¹ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 112 and sauerkraut 54 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh). ² Pack and stocks data not complete for catsup, paste, sauce and puree. ³ Okra, okra and tomatoes, and okra, corn and tomatoes, N.A. - not available.

Canners' stock and pack data from the National Food Processors Association, unless otherwise noted. Wholesale distributors, stock from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 12—Vegetables, frozen: Cold storage holdings and indicated disappearance, January 1 to April 1

Commodity	April 1 stocks			January 1-April 1 net change		
	1978	1979	1980 ¹	1978	1979	1980 ¹
<i>Million pounds</i>						
Asparagus	4	2	8	-6	-1	-10
Beans, lima:						
Fordhook	17	15	29	-6	-10	-24
Baby	50	57	59	-22	-24	-21
Total	67	72	88	-28	-33	-45
Beans, snap:						
Regular	46	65	81	-38	-43	-40
French style	26	33	42	-20	-24	-28
Total	72	98	123	-58	-67	-68
Broccoli:						
Spears	45	32	39	-9	-15	-17
Chopped and cuts	53	34	48	-2	-13	-20
Total	98	66	87	-11	-28	-37
Brussels sprouts	30	35	39	-8	-15	-12
Carrots						
Diced	77	56	70	-29	-40	-46
Other	45	52	54	-4	-16	-16
Total	122	108	124	-33	-56	-62
Cauliflower	38	62	56	-13	-25	-21
Corn, sweet:						
Cut	149	144	121	-73	-98	-75
On-cob	134	168	163	-67	-72	-56
Total	283	312	284	-140	-170	-131
Mixed Vegetables	32	40	50	-4	-3	-9
Okra	22	28	21	-12	-19	-8
Onions:						
Rings	12	10	13	2	(³)	-3
Other frozen	14	13	16	-2	-2	-2
Total	26	23	29	(³)	-2	-4
Peas, blackeyed	12	10	9	-4	-4	-2
Peas, green	126	112	151	-100	-116	-168
Peas and carrots	11	11	11	(³)	-2	-1
Spinach	55	41	51	-4	1	18
Southern greens	32	21	24	-17	-5	-6
Other vegetables	154	152	160	36	59	44
Total vegetables ²	1,184	1,193	1,313	-460	-578	-646
Potatoes:						
French fried	818	704	798	99	39	6
Other frozen	106	114	118	-5	2	-10
Total frozen potatoes	924	818	916	94	41	-4
Grand total ²	2,108	2,011	2,229	-366	-537	-650

¹ Preliminary. ² May not add to total due to rounding. ³ Less than .50.

Cold storage, ESCS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 13—Potatoes, winter and spring: Acreage, yield per acre and production, 1978, 1979, and 1980

Seasonal group and State	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested		For harvested 1980 ¹	1978	1979	1980 ¹	1978	1979	1980 ¹
	1978	1979							
	1,000 acres			Cwt.			1,000 cwt.		
Winter, total.	12.9	11.9	11.5	203	200	205	2,621	2,383	2,363
Spring:									
North Carolina	13.0	13.7	13.0	150	165	130	1,950	2,261	1,690
Florida-Hastings. . . .	20.6	18.5	18.0	170	230	175	3,502	4,255	3,150
Other.	1.8	.9	.7	125	180	170	225	162	119
Alabama	9.5	7.3	6.0	100	140	150	950	1,022	900
Mississippi ²	1.2	(²)	(²)	90	(²)	(²)	108	(²)	(²)
Louisiana	2.3	2.1	1.9	75	70	75	173	147	143
Texas.	7.5	7.1	6.2	160	160	170	1,200	1,136	1,054
Arizona	6.0	6.2	4.4	265	210	250	1,590	1,302	1,100
California	29.0	28.0	22.5	285	395	385	8,265	11,060	8,663
Total.	90.9	83.8	72.7	198	255	231	17,963	21,345	16,819

¹ Indicated. ² Discontinued after 1978 crop.

Crop Production, ESCS, USDA.

Table 14—Potatoes: Prices f.o.b. shipping points, at terminal markets, and to growers, per hundredweight, indicated periods, 1979 and 1980

Item	Week ended						
	1979			1980			
	Feb. 10	Mar. 17	Apr. 14	Jan. 19	Feb. 16	Mar. 15	Apr. 12
F.o.b. shipping points:	<i>Dollars</i>						
New stock							
Florida, Dade County							
U.S. No. 1, Size A. Round Reds ¹	---	6.60	7.00	---	---	---	8.00
Old stock							
Colorado, San Luis Valley							
Red McClures ²	4.50	4.50	4.50	5.75	5.83	5.88	5.20
Idaho, Idaho Falls							
Russets ³	5.35	4.88	5.00	10.00	9.00	7.80	7.70
Maine, Aroostook County							
U.S. No. 1 Size A. Mostly Katahdin ^{1 4}	3.46	3.86	3.50	2.88	2.56	2.32	1.90
New York, Upstate							
Round Whites ¹	4.62	5.20	5.50	4.22	5.14	3.86	4.46
Michigan							
Round Whites ¹	4.66	4.56	---	4.38	4.26	4.38	---
	Tuesday nearest mid-month						
	1979			1980			
	Feb. 13	Mar. 13	Apr. 10	Jan. 15	Feb. 12	Mar. 18	Apr. 15
Terminal markets:	<i>Dollars</i>						
New York:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds ^{1 5}	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.50
Old stock							
Long Island, various Round Whites ^{1 5}	6.24	---	5.40	6.00	6.00	5.30	5.00
Maine, Katahdin ^{1 4 5}	6.24	6.70	6.30	6.00	6.00	5.30	5.50
Idaho, Russets ^{1 5}	8.13	8.00	7.00	---	6.00	8.25	---
Chicago:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds ^{1 5 6}	---	---	---	---	---	8.00	8.00
Old stock							
Idaho, Russets ^{5 6}	11.00	10.75	10.75	12.50	12.50	12.25	15.00
Minnesota-North Dakota, Round Reds ^{5 6}	6.50	6.25	6.25	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75
	Month						
	1979			1980			
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
	<i>Dollars</i>						
U.S. price received by growers. . . .	2.77	2.94	2.81	3.53	3.32	3.28	
U.S. average parity price	6.75	6.89	6.96	7.16	7.27	7.34	

¹ 50-pound price doubled, ² 2-inch up, washed, ³ 4-oz. minimum, ⁴ 2-inch minimum, ⁵ U.S. No. 1, Size A, ⁶ Street sales, F.o.b. prices are the simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Terminal market prices are for Tuesday of each week as reported by Market News representatives of the Fruit and Vegetable Division of AMS. N.A. -Not available.

Table 15—Sweetpotatoes: F.o.b. prices at Louisiana and California points and terminal market prices at New York and Chicago for stocks of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1, when available), indicated periods, 1979 and 1980

Location and variety	Unit	Week ended						
		1979			1980			
		Feb. 10	Mar. 17	Apr. 14	Jan. 19	Feb. 16	Mar. 15	Apr. 12
F.o.b. shipping points		<i>Dollars</i>						
S.W. Louisiana points								
Porto Rico type, U.S. No. 1, cured.	50 pound crate	7.63	7.63	7.63	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
California, Porto Rico type, centennial. . .	40 pound carton	9.70	10.10	10.10	7.00	7.00	7.00	9.25
		Tuesday nearest mid-month						
		1979			1980			
		Feb. 13	Mar. 13	Apr. 10	Jan. 15	Feb. 12	Mar. 18	Apr. 12
Terminal markets		<i>Dollars</i>						
New York:								
New Jersey, Orange Jersey type	Bushel carton	6.50	---	7.00	---	7.00	7.00	7.00
North Carolina, Jewels	carton	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.50
Chicago:								
North Carolina, cured.	carton	8.50	8.63	9.00	8.50	8.50	8.25	8.29

F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Market prices are for Tuesday of each week as reported by Market News representatives of the Fruit and Vegetable Division of AMS.

Table 16—Sweetpotatoes: Plantings, 1978, 1979, and indicated 1980

Area	Acreage			
	1978	1979	Indicated 1980 ¹	1980 as percentage of 1979
	<i>1,000 acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Central Atlantic ²	10.3	10.2	8.4	82
Lower Atlantic ³	46.9	51.2	47.1	92
Central ⁴	58.4	58.1	56.0	96
California	8.5	9.5	9.3	98
United States	124.1	129.0	120.8	93.6

¹ Indicated as of April 1. ² New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. ³ North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. ⁴ Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.

Source: Prospective Planting, ESCS, USDA.

Table 17—Average price per hundredweight received by farmers for sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, and dry field peas, United States, indicated periods, 1979 and 1980

Commodity	1979		1980	
	February 15	March 15	January 15	February 15
				March 15
	<i>Dollars</i>			
Sweetpotatoes.	12.60	12.80	8.63	9.21
Beans, dry edible	18.10	17.30	24.60	25.20
Peas, dry field	8.30	7.69	10.00	11.00

Agricultural Prices, ESCS, USDA.

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